

From Custodians of Knowledge to Navigators of Algorithms: The LIS Professionals' Role in the Digital Intelligence Epoch

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ABSTRACT

Digital Intelligence has rapidly changed the way we access information, reuse it, and create new content. The tasks that used to be performed by librarians—searching books or databases, summarizing texts, and answering users' questions—are now increasingly being performed by Digital Intelligence systems. This shift raises a big question: Are librarians still needed?

The authors of this article have attempted to answer that question in depth. We have also critically analyzed the argument that Digital Intelligence can replace librarians entirely. In fact, the authors analysis has reinforced the fact that librarians are not just necessary, but even more so. Because librarians are not just information providers—they are also teachers who teach students, organizers who collect and provide reliable and accurate information, mediators who understand users' needs, and guides who facilitate thinking. Several recent professional discussions and scholarly writings reinforce this point. Librarians are gradually taking on new roles (in line with changing times and needs):

- ❖ *As educators: They can teach how to use information.*
- ❖ *As ethical stewards: They can identify reliable sources and filter out misleading information.*
- ❖ *As mediators: They can understand the needs of users and guide them in the right direction.*
- ❖ *As facilitators of thought: They have the ability and capacity to explain complex matters in a way that is easy to understand.*

The core human values of librarianship—making good decisions, understanding, guiding, and encouraging independent thought—are all things that Digital Intelligence cannot do. Digital Intelligence provides answers based on data, but it is not yet capable of handling processes such as understanding human experience, emotion, and context, how to respond appropriately, and how much to respond, and providing only as much as is necessary. There is no doubt that a librarian is in a position to do that job effectively.

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Therefore, our article makes one thing clear: Digital Intelligence should not be seen as a substitute, but as a tool to support librarians. Digital Intelligence accelerates the work of librarians, but it does not replace their human values..

KEYWORDS: Digital Intelligence, Information Access, Information Retrieval, Content Production, Professional Debates, Scholarly Literature, Educators, Ethical Stewards, Trust Mediators, Critical Thinking, Human-Centered Values, Contextual Understanding, Intellectual Freedom.

1. INTRODUCTION

New machines, computers, and technologies keep coming into our lives. Every time something new comes along, we think, "What if the jobs we have so far are gone?" For example, when machines came along, workers were afraid that their jobs would be lost. Then computers and digital libraries came along. Even then, they thought, "What if the need for libraries decreases?"

Now, artificial intelligence/ Digital Intelligence has come along. It works very fast. It searches large amounts of data in seconds, summarizes, answers questions, and even creates new texts. That's why many people think: is a librarian needed when there is Digital Intelligence?

The job of a librarian is not just to bring books or information. They understand information, select the right one, explain those information sources as well as related information if necessary, teach, present useful information in the right way or manner, review, and preserve (technically) the information they have collected. That is, librarians are not just guardians of books, but guides to knowledge.

Digital Intelligence is a powerful tool. It provides information quickly. But it also has the potential to provide false information. The information provided by Digital Intelligence may not always be true. This is exactly where librarians are needed. They provide us with only true, reliable information. This is where human discretion comes in. The role of a librarian in the age of Digital Intelligence can be seen in four important aspects:

- ❖ Information guidance – in examining the information provided by Digital Intelligence and selecting the right one and providing it to the user
- ❖ Trust and honesty – in providing the user with true, unbiased information.
- ❖ Information literacy – in teaching people how to read, understand, and use information.
- ❖ Collaboration with Digital Intelligence – when the speed of Digital Intelligence and the knowledge of librarians come together, it will be possible to provide more useful knowledge to society. Therefore, it would be too much to expect artificial intelligence to go beyond its current level and provide everything beyond what humans can do ... and put everything on a plate that you need.

So, Digital Intelligence (as it is today) will not reduce the need for librarians. Instead, it will increase their importance. They will not just be information providers, but knowledge collectors, guides, and honest information managers. In the future, librarians and Digital Intelligence will work together. When the speed of Digital Intelligence and the knowledge of librarians come together, society will receive more valuable knowledge.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. A number of studies and articles have emerged on the relationship between Digital Intelligence and librarianship. Researchers argue that Digital Intelligence technologies— particularly in information retrieval, retrieval, and conversation—are transforming library services (Smith, 2020; Chen & Yu, 2022). The use of Digital Intelligence is making it possible to provide large amounts of information quickly and simplify repetitive tasks.

2. However, several studies clearly show that Digital Intelligence has not replaced librarians. Researchers such as Johnson (2019) and Kumar (2021) argue that the role of librarians includes elements such as ethical responsibility, educational guidance, and human judgment that machines cannot perform. They describe librarians as mediators of knowledge, gurus of information literacy, and guardians of privacy.

Some studies also show the potential for collaboration between Digital Intelligence and librarians. According to Miller (2023), the future of libraries will be human + machine, not “human or machine.” Digital Intelligence will expand access and increase efficiency; but librarians will provide empathy, trust, and contextual judgment. Researchers such as Floridi (2018) also argue for the need for algorithmic accountability and ethical information systems.

In summary, the literature suggests that Digital Intelligence will enhance the work of libraries but will not diminish the importance of librarians. Rather, it will redefine their role. In this era of algorithmic dominance, the need for librarians will only increase.

Librarian and His Profession in the Concept of an unawarded Society - myths and facts:

Myth: Librarians are just people who look for books and provide information.

Truth: Librarians' work is much deeper and broader than that (in providing information). What Digital Intelligence can do

- ❖ Search for books and articles.
- ❖ Extract documents.
- ❖ Make references.

It does all this quickly. But librarians are special

Librarians don't just "provide information". They understand users' vague, unclear, or incomplete questions and clarify them and guide them in the right direction.

For example, a student who "needs information about geo politics and its reflections" can:

- ❖ Tell them what to focus on,
- ❖ Show them reliable documents and research,
- ❖ Distinguish between scientific reports and personal opinions,
- ❖ Identify whether the information is biased (biased), and so on.

Digital Intelligence Limitations

Digital Intelligence gives answers based on data. But it:

- ❖ cannot understand human emotions,
- ❖ individual situations,
- ❖ Organizational needs.

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Digital Intelligence responds only based on the data patterns it has been trained on.

Human Understanding of Librarians

Librarians talk to users, understand their needs, and turn raw information into useful knowledge. This is called a "reference interview" – that is, clarifying the question through a conversation with the user and providing the right information.

So, Digital Intelligence works faster, but it cannot replace the human understanding, judgment, and guidance of librarians. Librarians understand the context, align information with educational goals, and so on. Therefore, the librarian's job is not just to "give information" – he is a skilled artist who turns information into knowledge.

Situation - Perception – Reasoning vs. Human Intelligence:

Digital Intelligence is the most influential technology of this century. It is widely used in fields such as education, research, health, business, and entertainment. Digital Intelligence provides us with information very quickly. However, Digital Intelligence has some limitations: it does not have true understanding.

Powers and limitations of Digital Intelligence:

Digital Intelligence collects data from many sources and shows us answers. It helps in research, education, business decisions, and the medical field. However, Digital Intelligence does not have logical thinking.

- ❖ It does not independently test whether the information it says is true or not.
- ❖ It does not recognize strict rules, methods, and ethical standards in research.
- ❖ It does not understand the purpose or morality behind a piece of information. It is recommended to consult relevant subject matter experts and study the extent of the reliability of each matter presented to us. What does it mean, again, is it based on human intelligence?

Misinformation and Deep fakes

A big problem around the world right now is misinformation and deep fakes.

- ❖ In politics → Fake news misleads people during elections.
- ❖ In health → Misleading medical advice can have a serious impact on people's lives.
- ❖ In society → Deep fakes videos, photos; content that appears real but is artificially created.

Critical thinking is needed

Critical thinking is very necessary in this situation.

- ❖ Examining the truth, intention, accuracy, timeliness, and morality behind a piece of information.
- ❖ Identifying misinformation and deep fakes.
- ❖ Maintaining true knowledge and morality in society.

The role of librarians in this regard

Librarians and researchers teach us these skills.

- ❖ When reading a news item → we should compare it with other sources to see if it is true or not.
- ❖ When reading a research paper → check its source, author, place of publication, time, etc.
- ❖ When watching a video → check whether it is a deep fake or not.

According to researchers and data scientists: "While the content produced by Digital Intelligence can be useful, it also brings new problems. It is a contradiction to expect Digital Intelligence to teach us to think critically. True

critical literacy is about logical thinking, ethical decision-making, and good communication. All of these are abilities that are based on human knowledge and teaching.”

So overall, we know what Digital Intelligence helps us with, but it does not determine the truth. We have to think critically and examine information ourselves. Librarians, teachers, and researchers teach us these skills. In the current era, critical thinking is like a shield for us.

Where can we find credibility in both Digital Intelligence and human intelligence?

We use Digital Intelligence in computers and mobile phones. It gives us answers, makes pictures, and translates languages. But there are some important things behind this:

1. Manufacture by private companies

- ❖ Digital Intelligence is mostly manufactured by large technology companies.
- ❖ Their goal is to make a lot of money.

2. Bias

- ❖ We do not clearly know where the training data given to Digital Intelligence comes from.
- ❖ Therefore, there is a possibility that the results given by Digital Intelligence are biased in one direction.

For example: even if there is both truth and falsehood about a thing, the Digital Intelligence is likely to say that what it sees is the truth.

3. Working for profit

- ❖ Digital Intelligence systems sometimes work for the benefit of the company rather than for the benefit of the people.
- ❖ That is, the company can decide what information to show and what to hide.

4. Trust issue

The information in libraries is neutral.

- ❖ But Digital Intelligence is more likely to have bias and commercial interests.
- ❖ That is why they are not as reliable as libraries. And librarians
- ❖ Librarians (librarian managers) are very different from Digital Intelligence Systems.

1. Providing real information

- ❖ They only provide the right knowledge that is in books and resources.
- ❖ They do not change information for profit.

2. Identifying truth among false news

- ❖ In today's digital world, there is a lot of false news and fraudulent content.
- ❖ Librarians identify what is real and tell people what is true.

3. Explaining how algorithms work

- ❖ They explain to people how the algorithms in Digital Intelligence produce results and how they affect reality.
- ❖ That is, they are guides to understanding knowledge.

The New Role of Librarians in the Age of Digital Intelligence

In this era of rapid development of Digital Intelligence, the role of librarians is evolving beyond the level of providing books and becoming educators. Now they are not just providers of information, but also guides who teach how to understand, analyze, and use it responsibly.

Old responsibilities – new challenges

- ❖ In the past, librarians taught students how to use websites and how to do citation techniques.
- ❖ Now they teach students how Digital Intelligence algorithms work, how to detect errors caused by Digital Intelligence, and how to identify fake videos/images (synthetic media).

Guiding students

Instead of blindly following Digital Intelligence -generated content, students should:

- ❖ Learn to critically examine it.
- ❖ Understand issues such as copyright infringement, bias, and data errors.
- ❖ Get used to using Digital Intelligence responsibly.

Librarians – Teachers Partnership

It is imperative that librarians conduct workshops with teachers on the following topics:

- ❖ Responsible Usage of Newly Emerged Digital Intelligence Technology
- ❖ Integrity in Academic Writing
- ❖ Literary Knowledge in Digital Content Creation and Usage

Librarians' Specialization in Digital Intelligence Literacy

- ❖ They explain Digital Intelligence from an information and data science perspective – that is, how knowledge is created, validated, and shared.
- ❖ Digital Intelligence provides information but does not teach critical thinking.
- ❖ That is why librarians teach information retrieval skills to students, helping them become analysts rather than just users.

Librarians - Human Values – Empathy and Fulfilling Community Needs

The role of librarians in our society is very unique. They are not just custodians of books, but people who uphold human values. No matter how advanced machines, computers, and Digital Intelligence? Become, they cannot completely replace the place of librarians.

1. Judgment and moral courage

Librarians are not just information providers, they can make sound judgments. They can identify what is useful and what is harmful to society. Despite political and institutional pressures, they show the courage to protect intellectual freedom.

2. Compassion and human relations

Machines do not have emotions. But librarians understand everyone with compassion.

- ❖ They help the marginalized.
- ❖ They guide those who are less digitally literate.
- ❖ They identify the needs of each user and provide the right help.

3. Communal space

Libraries are not just bookcases; they are an authentic place for the concern public.

Guides those who want to do research.

- ❖ Serves as a platform for dialogue and discussion.
- ❖ Provides equal opportunities and services to every section of society. There are definitely some limitations to Digital Intelligence in the above matters.
- ❖ It does not take responsibility for the information it provides.
- ❖ Artificial intelligence does not show empathy. There is never a chance of a response from itself in this matter.
- ❖ It does not build human relationships.

4. The need for librarians is inevitable

Why because, if librarians are present:

- ❖ Research can be done easily.
- ❖ Time is saved.
- ❖ Information is understood more clearly.

CONCLUSION

The emergence of Digital Intelligence has reshaped many professional fields, including librarianship. While Digital Intelligence has shown remarkable capabilities in data retrieval, abstraction, and conversation, it has not replaced the unique ethical, educational, and humanistic dimensions of librarians.

Librarians are not just custodians of books—they are mediators of knowledge, teachers of information literacy, guardians of privacy, and ethical stewards of information systems. This clearly shows that the need for librarians is not diminished by the use of Digital Intelligence, but rather that their expertise is more needed. The libraries of the future will not be divided into “human or machine.” They will be “human + Machine” collaborations. Digital Intelligence will enhance efficiency and expand access; but librarians will provide the values of judgment, empathy, and trust.

In this era of algorithmic dominance and increasing information uncertainty, the role of librarians will not diminish—it will become more indispensable.

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